

Regenerate NPT (LAG)

Meeting: 10am, 23 March 2017
Venue: Canolfan Maerdy

PRESENT:

Cllr Anthony Taylor – Chair
Jonathan Cosson – Warm Wales
Neil Thomas - NPTCBC
Tony Potts - NPTCVS
Lynda G Williams – GCG Community Council
John Davies – BayTrans
Ben Riseborough – LAG Manager NPTCBC
Suzette Phillips – RDP
Bethan Blackmore - RDP
Daron Herbert – Natural Resources Wales
Len Preece – Canolfan Maerdy
Susan Chilcott – Cognation
Karleigh Davies – Tourism Business NPTCBC

APOLOGIES:

Rhysian Pingilley – Glynneath Training Centre
Lynn Bray – South Wales Chamber of Commerce
Catrin Evans – NPTCBC Countryside & Wildlife Team
Cathy Lewis – Tourism Swansea Bay
John Cronin – Port Talbot Trades Council
Cllr David Lewis – Cilybebyll Community Council
Ian Ross – Whitehead-Ross Education & Consulting
Clive Ball – NPTC Group
Jonathan Morris – NPT Homes
Alison Owen – DANSA
Peter Hunter – Blaenhonddan Community Council

Item No.	Subject	Action
1	Welcome and Apologies: AT welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were recorded. It was noted that Lynn Bray (South Wales Chamber of Commerce) has made the decision to resign from the LAG due to work commitments.	
2	Minutes of previous meeting Minutes were approved.	
3	Matters arising not on agenda There were no matters arising.	
4	Project Update – Tourism Business KD updated the meeting on the project progress so far with the aid of a slide presentation detailing the project's aims and objectives, performance indicators achieved to date, project activities, ie. mapping of tourism businesses and visitor marketing analysis for our rural wards. The project is aligned with developing the tourist industry to take a leading role in marketing and advertising itself. LW commented that she felt nothing was being done in Tairgwaith to market Margam Park, for instance.	

	<p>NT mentioned that MP did the majority of its marketing on-line and through its facebook followers. KD's role, however, is not marketing.</p> <p>AT mentioned that a task and finish group within NPTCBC are currently looking to make serious recommendations with regards to improving tourism within NPT and an announcement is due in the next few months.</p> <p>KD commented that a bank of photography and videography was being created for the rural wards of NPT which would be freely available to the tourism sector to promote the area. This will include photographs of mountain bike trails and these should be ready in 2018 and could be used to form the basis of a campaign – also linked with Cognation.</p> <p>KD mentioned that she had held 2 Sense of Place events which highlighted to tourism businesses the importance of putting across what was unique about your area (this year focus was on myths and legends of NPT). 7 events are programmed in all but KD is hoping to do more. The feedback from the events so far has been very positive.</p> <p>LW and LP mentioned the more modern legends from their local area: ie. Peter O'Toole, Sian Phillips etc. however KD mentioned that in order to focus on a legend you need something tangible.</p> <p>KD is also in the process of setting up a network of businesses linked to the delivery of the NPT Destination Management Plan for Swansea and Amman Valley, Afan Forest Park, Vale of Neath and Dulais Valley and Margam Country Park.</p> <p>A Pilot project to establish a digital platform for visitor information is planned for the final year of the project.</p>	
5	<p>Update from sub group meetings</p> <p>BR gave an update on meetings held so far. On 8 Feb 2017, theme 3 - exploring ways of providing non-statutory services was discussed. The main topics were around the subjects of transport and health and well-being. A meeting on 6 Feb 2017, theme 4 – renewable energy at community level was discussed which included discussions on capital projects including the old water turbine at Aberdulais Falls, and the possible reinstatement of a hydro scheme at Margam Park. Projects looking into the possibility of generating more energy from waste were also discussed. Education related projects were also mooted, involving teaching staff and pupils about the merits of energy efficiency. DH asked whether we had actually spoken to a waste specialist from NPTCBC for advice – BB confirmed that she had.</p>	
6	<p>LEADER Co-operation Update</p> <p>BB gave an update on the two co-operation schemes that the NPT RDP Team are involved in:</p> <p><u>1.Co-operation and Supply Chain (RDP Measure 16.4) – ‘Resilient Economy – Local Supply Chains’ project (appendix 3)</u></p>	

Award: £613,000

Tender: On Sell2Wales to put in place a team of officers to work on a regional basis across the participating area- (Bridgend, Caerphilly & Blaenau Gwent, Merthyr Tydfil & Rhondda Cynon Taf, Neath Port Talbot, Powys, Torfaen, Vale of Glamorgan, Monmouthshire and Newport (8 LAGS).

Governance: The **Regional Food Stakeholder Partnership** will oversee the project - (Partnership -includes farming industry, community growing, health, waste, tourism, farmers markets, distribution and includes a number of producer businesses). Bridgend County Borough RDP will lead

Project duration: Work start date is **1st May 2017** and completion with final invoices submitted by **30th September 2019**.

Targeting new, small and hard- to – reach producers it will address barriers to engagement, upskill, create clusters and networks and build physical capacity for economies of scale **through four work- streams:**

- a) Mapping & Engagement
- b) Skills & Capacity to Grow
- c) Education & Awareness
- d) Collaborations & Routes to Market

2. LEADER Co-operation (LEADER Co-operation update)

In previous minutes it stated that a possible 'Craft Network' LEADER Co-operation project was looking at being developed with Bridgend CBC.

However, this development is now a longer term aim and SP will give an update on the proposal for an 'Art and Craft Network' in the next agenda point.

Meetings had taken place with City & County of Swansea around a possible "Bee" LEADER Co-operation project, the development of a Co-operation project is in development stage and could possibly include other neighbouring RDP Teams.

A possible project could looking at 3 strands:

1. Ensuring that Beekeeping skills are passed on and to increase the number of community honey producers in the area.
2. The possible Establishment of a honey producer's network
3. Activities to support the Honey bee and other pollinating insects.

Currently 3 RDP Teams from South East Wales are involved in a ' BEES' Co-operation project looking at Breeding, Education, Environment and Skills. This project has a total cost of around £11,000 – split 3 ways.

LP- Asked how the project would address the use of pesticides which has led to the decline in Bees and other pollinators. BB stated that the project would liaise with the NPT Wildlife Team and other experts in this field to look at this issue.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similarities with Warm Wales Project. • This subject is currently on the school curriculum. NT suggested more benefit and sustainability would be gained if the project was looking at resourcing the teaching side of this subject and contact should be made with Mike Daley, School Advisor. Knowledge needs to be imparted to the teachers so they can pass this on and increase the legacy. NT commented that an educational project in all schools in our rural wards is a good investment with a rolling programme of mentoring teachers. • SC commented that a joint project with other organisations getting involved could also increase sustainability. • NT suggested also contacting Paul Hinder. <p><u>LAG DECISION – NOT APPROVED at this stage, but LAG recommends both Awel Aman Tawe and Warm Wales consult with the school advisory service and hold discussions on a joint project taking into consideration the points above</u></p> <p>Warm Schools – Warm Wales See Re-Think Education – Awel Aman Tawe above</p>	BR
9.	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TP announced the sad news that Steve Lewis, Job Centre Plus had passed away unexpectedly. All members of the LAG expressed their condolences. • TT announced that as the elections were nearly upon us and that his continuance on the LAG was in the hands of the democratic system, he would like to express his thanks to all LAG members for their excellent work and professionalism in taking forward the scheme so far and also thanked the RDP team for all their hard work and support • LW announced that she is up for re-election in the community council and hopes to see us at the next LAG meeting. She will however no longer be representing NPTCBC as a councillor. 	